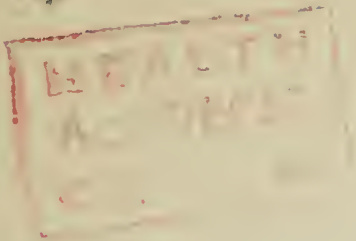


h/4



BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - 1957.



BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1957.

October 1958

To The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
Cowbridge Borough Council.

I have much pleasure in presenting my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of the Borough for the year 1957.

It has been prepared in accordance with the suggestions from the Welsh Board of Health as contained in their Circular 1/1958 (Wales) and the report presents particulars under the following headings: vital statistics, social conditions, drainage, water supplies, public cleansing, housing and other matters which have an affect upon the public health.

The Registrar General has provided statistical information, from which it is ascertained that the population of the Borough is estimated as 1,010 and that there were 11 births and 11 deaths.

There was an increase in the notifications of infectious diseases over the previous years, 14 measles being accounted for and 2 whooping cough. It was not found necessary to remove any cases to the isolation hospital.

During the year an extensive programme of work took place as a result of a straightening out of the bed of the River Thaw and also of conducting the river to a new passage under the main highway (A48). This necessitated the construction of a new bridge and a lowering of the level of the road, and also dealing with all the main public services.

As the diversion of the river would affect the swimming pool which had been in use for many years, a new site was suggested for a proposed new pool. Before proceeding with any scheme a report was presented to you for your consideration, a copy of which will be found in the body of the report on Page 3.

Again this year it was not possible to erect any new Council houses but properties were reconditioned with the aid of improvement grants.

As indicated in my previous reports now that the drainage and sewerage arrangements are up-to-date, it has been possible for certain improvements to have taken place in food preparing premises and licensing houses which has meant new equipment.

I wish to thank the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors and also the Officials for their co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

G. McKIM THOMAS.

Medical Officer of Health.



SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Borough of Cowbridge comprises an area of 84 acres, on the main highway from London to Fishguard. It is a very ancient Borough formed in its present state probably early in the 13th century and at this period was ranked in Glamorgan as second only to Cardiff. It has not developed to any considerable extent and for the past 100 years the population has been almost static.

The Borough is the natural centre of the fertile Vale of Glamorgan and the principal industries are clearly connected with agricultural pursuits such as agricultural engineers, agricultural merchants, and shops and professional offices which specialise in country requirements.

Public mains water is available throughout the area and a house to house refuse collection is carried out at weekly intervals. Electricity is also provided in all parts of the area. A sewerage scheme is now provided throughout the town, and with the exception of a small group of houses near the Bridge almost all properties are connected.

There are no large factories in the area. The factories which are here engage a small number of employees some of whom are members of the owners' own families.

A list of the factories registered with the Council is as follows:-

1. Mr. A. Sanders, Boot Repairer.
2. Messrs. D. Brown & Sons Ltd., Printers.
3. Messrs. Arthur Jones & Sons Ltd., Builders Yard.
4. Messrs. Robert Thomas & Sons Ltd., do.
5. Mr. Frank Sanders (Cowbridge) Ltd., Garage Proprietor.
6. Mr. R. O. Jones, do.
7. Mr. A. H. Jones, do.
8. Wales Gas Board, Gas Holders.
9. Glamorgan County Council, Builders Yard.
10. Mid-Vale Motor Co., Ltd., Motor Engineers.

SECTION "A".STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (In acres) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate book .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	309
Sum represented by the penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£53. 7s. 1d.
Rateable value of the district ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£11,831
Population (Registrar General's estimate) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,010

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.Live Births.Births Registered - 1957

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate live births	4	6	10
Illegitimate live births	-	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>

Still Births.

Legitimate still births
Illegitimate still births

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nil	Nil	Nil
Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>



Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.

Birth Rate Cowbridge Borough	11.33
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.10
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	16.15
Birth Rate for Urban Areas in the Administrative County	16.32

Infant Mortality.

Number of deaths under 1 year of age	Nil
Infant mortality rate for Cowbridge per 1,000 births	Nil
Infant mortality for England and Wales	23.00
Infant mortality for Administrative County of Glamorgan	31.45
Infant mortality for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	32.86

Death Rate per 1,000 Population.

Death Rate for Cowbridge Borough	11.33
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.5
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan	13.99
Death Rate for Urban Areas in Glamorgan	14.13

Causes of Death 1957.

<u>Disease.</u>	Male	Female	Total
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	1	2	3
Other heart disease	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
	<hr/>		
Total	5	6	11
	<hr/>		

SECTION "B".

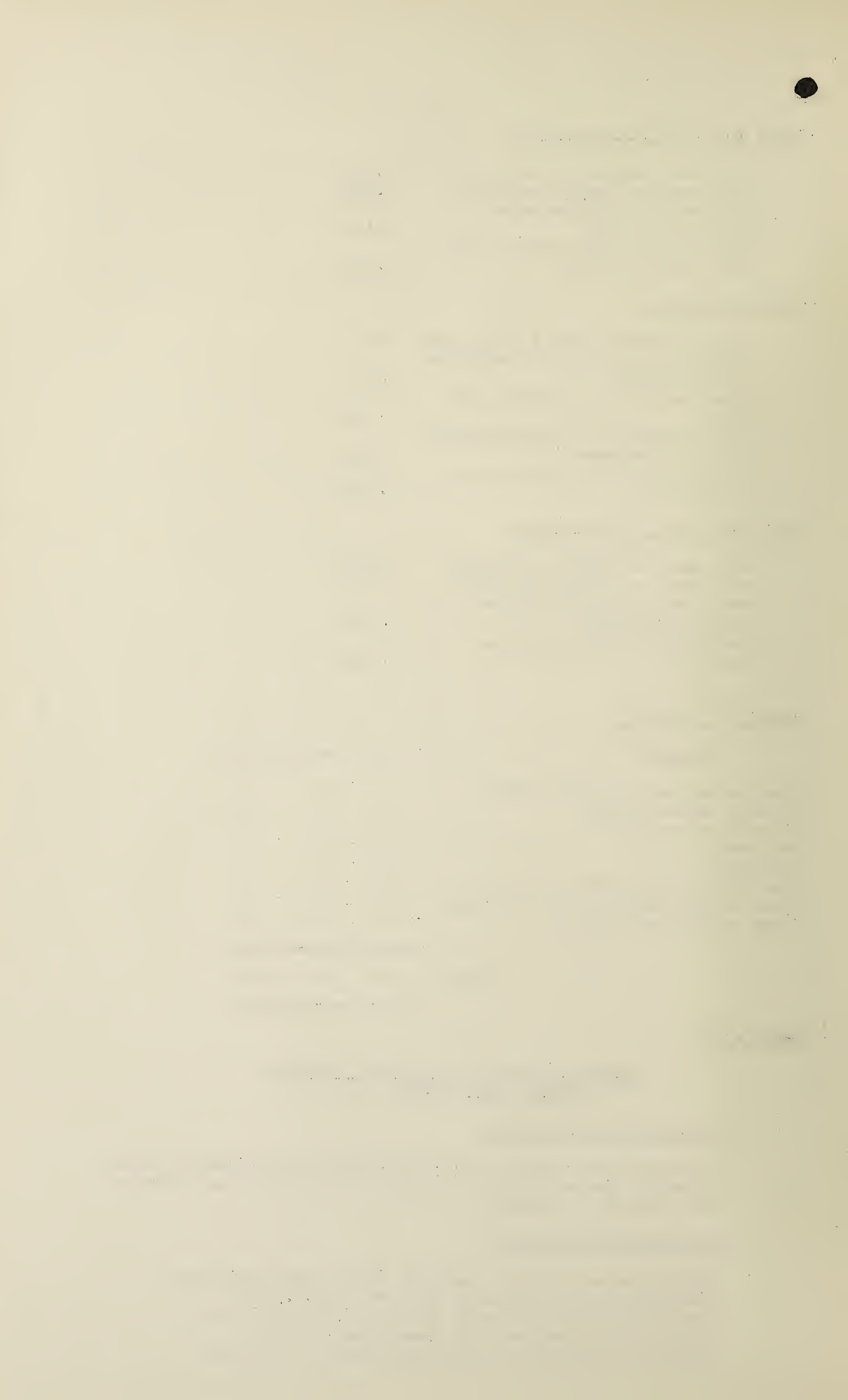
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
WITHIN THE BOROUGH.

(a) Medical Officer of Health.

G. McKim Thomas M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S., D.P.H. Medical Officer of Health (Part-time holds appointment with Cardiff and Cowbridge Rural District Councils).

(b) Public Health Inspector.

Hubert Thomas M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. Public Health Inspector.
(Part-time holds appointment with Cowbridge R.D.C.)
Certificate of Royal Society of Health and Public Health
Inspectors Examination Joint Board, Meat and Food
Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Society of Health.



Committees Dealing with Health Matters.

The Monthly Meetings of the Council and Standing Committees both deal with health matters as the occasion demands.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Area Ambulance Services are administered from the Ambulance Control Station, Oak Street, Aberkenfig, the telephone number of which is Aberkenfig 303.

In addition to the vehicles at the Ambulance Control Station, one ambulance is stationed at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Town Hall, Cowbridge, and another at the Ambulance Sub-Station, Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes within the area. Infectious cases are usually admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Cefn Hirgoed although under regionalisation specific cases might be admitted to other more convenient hospitals.

Medical and surgical cases are admitted to any of the Board's Hospitals in Bridgend and Cardiff. By arrangement with the Air Ministry several civilians in the area have been treated at the hospital at the Royal Air Force Station, St. Athan.

Maternity cases usually enter the Bridgend Hospital or St. Athan R.A.F. Hospital. Of the 11 births during the year four were born at home and the remaining nine in hospitals in the surrounding districts.

Ear, nose and throat diseases in children under 15 years of age are dealt with in the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Cowbridge Road, Ely, Cardiff. In addition, some patients receive treatment at the Bridgend Hospital. Children suffering from squint can also receive treatment at the Orthoptic Clinic, and those cases needing operative treatment are admitted to the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital as above.

Laboratory Facilities.

All pathological specimens are examined at the Ministry of Health's Public Laboratory at Cardiff and chemical analyses are carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

A hard water of high bacterial quality is provided by the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board throughout the Borough.

With one exception all properties in the Borough are connected to these mains.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

I presented a special report to the Borough Council on the possibility of providing a bathing pool adjacent to the River Thaw and using river water for this purpose. The Glamorgan River Board had promised to undertake the excavation.

The report gave details of the requirements for modern swimming pools and reminded the Council of their duty as a sanitary authority in not allowing the use of baths by the public unless the water is satisfactorily treated.

Samples of water taken from the river at various times had been unsatisfactory.

No further progress on this proposed project was made during the year.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29523813>

Schools.

There are three schools in the area; the Cowbridge Grammar School, Y Bontfaen Elementary School and a small private school at High Street.

Each of these schools is provided with water closets and mains water and all are now connected to the Borough sewerage scheme.

Rivers and Streams.

The Glamorgan River Board have diverted the River Thaw to a point approximately 100 yards to the west, and the Glamorgan County Council have provided a new bridge where the river passes under the road at this point. This work was almost completed during 1957 and has resulted in a considerable improvement in the drainage of the agricultural land north of Cowbridge.

The flooding of this area periodically experienced in past years, has now been abated. The water in this river is no longer polluted by sewage and receives no effluent from the factories or sewage disposal plants north of Cowbridge.

HOUSING.

(a) New Council Houses. No progress was made in this connection during 1957 and the Council's Housing Estate remains as follows:-

(a) Council houses at Broadway, Cowbridge (erected between 1919 and 1939)	12
(b) Council houses at Borough Close (erected since 1945)	36
(c) Cottages at Church Street, Cowbridge	2
(d) Southgate Cottage, Cowbridge	1
(e) Cottages at The Butts, Cowbridge	4
(f) Number 12 High Street, Cowbridge	<u>1</u>
Total number of houses owned by the Borough Council	<u>56</u>

During the year the improvement of Southgate Cottage was completed with the aid of an improvement grant under Section 15 of the Housing Act, 1949.

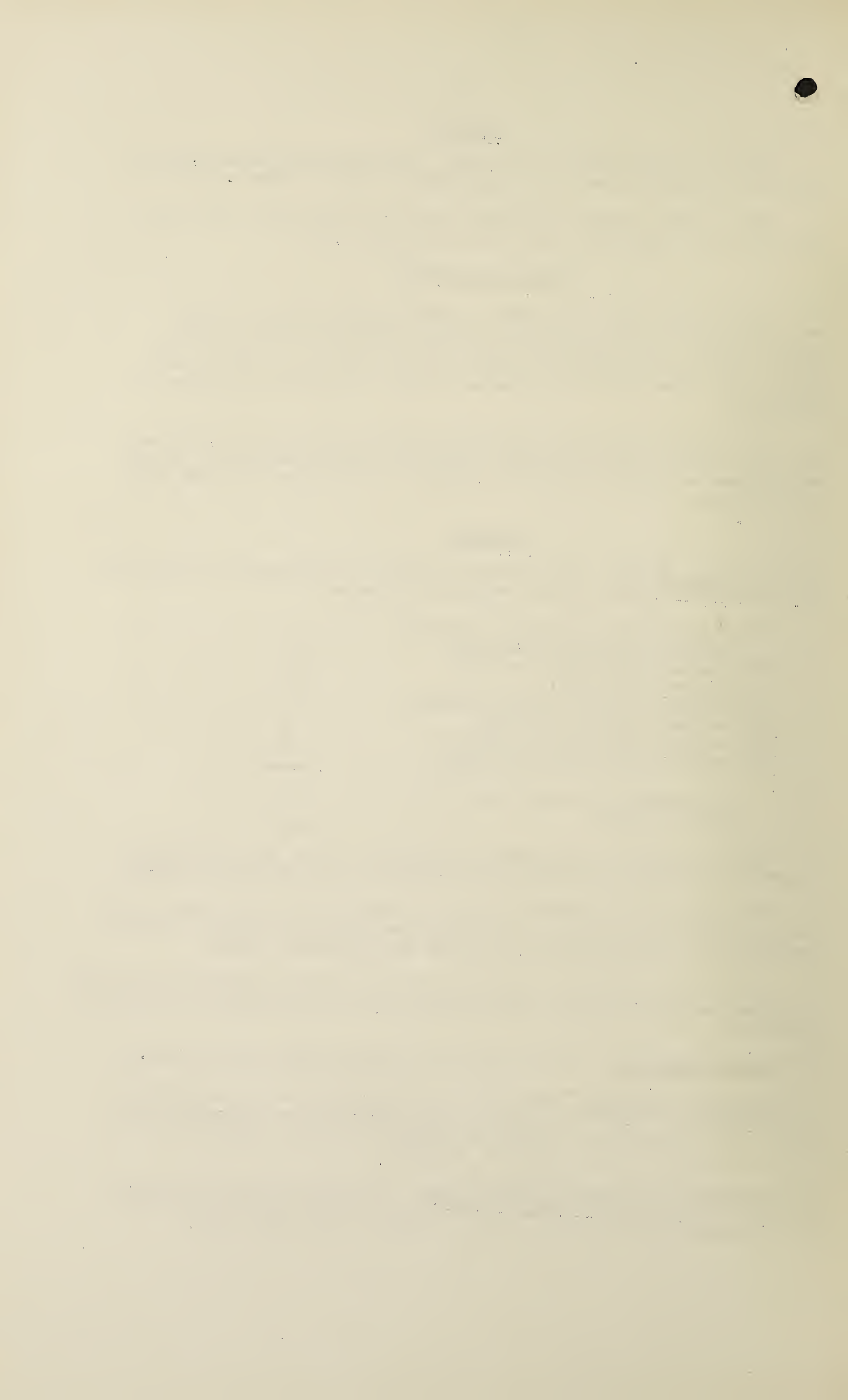
The Public Health Inspector prepared a scheme for the improvement of Bush House, Cowbridge and this was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for a grant under Section 15 of the Housing Act, 1949.

Approval was received at the end of the year and the exchequer contribution in respect of this improvement work was £26. 16s. 0d. per annum for a period of 20 years.

(b) Private Enterprise. No new houses were erected during the year 1957.

(c) Selection of Tenants. All tenants for Council houses are selected by a points scheme. Under this system the home conditions are inspected by the Public Health Inspector. In this way Council tenants are selected with due regard to overcrowded and insanitary conditions.

(d) Demolition or Closure of Unfit Houses. The Borough Council's programme for slum clearance includes the provision of four houses which the Council have indicated that they would rehouse, within the next three years.



Housing Improvement Grants.

The Public Health Inspector reports that the following applications for Improvement Grants were made during the year:-

<u>Property.</u>	<u>Synopsis of Work.</u>	<u>Grant.</u>
The Haven Bungalow, Westgate Street	Abatement of dampness, provision of new kitchen etc.	£400
13 Eastgate Street	Provision of bathroom, hot and cold water etc.	£173
37 Eastgate Street	Demolition of part of premises, provision of bathroom, additional windows etc.	£285
Bridge House, High Street	Provision of bathroom, drainage etc.	£110
9 High Street	Provision of bathroom, drainage etc.	£101

Plans.

The following plans were submitted for approval under the Building Byelaws during 1957:-

(a) New houses or conversion of buildings into houses	1
(b) Additions or alterations to houses or business premises	7
(c) Drainage works	2
(d) Stores, garages etc.	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>13</u>

POULTRY KEEPING ON COUNCIL'S HOUSING ESTATES.

The Council have adopted a standard for poultry keeping on their housing estates and all tenants wishing to keep poultry must make application to the Council before doing so. The Council's standard conditions apply in each case.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal. Collection of refuse in the Borough is carried out by arrangement with the Cowbridge Rural District Council who employ a modern refuse freighter for this purpose. A once weekly collection is carried out from all private dwellings but canteens, hotels receive a service twice weekly. The collections are undertaken under the direction of the Public Health Inspector.

(b) Refuse Bins. The Council have placed the responsibility for the provision of refuse bins upon the occupiers of the houses, and as a result of action taken over the past years, the majority of householders in the town are now provided with properly constructed refuse bins.

The Public Health Inspector takes informal action where necessary to require householders without properly constructed bins to provide the same.

(c) Street Cleansing. The Glamorgan County Council operate a mobile street sweeper for all the main highways in the town. The remaining side streets are serviced by the Borough Council by direct labour.

Street litter bins are provided at certain points in the Borough.

(d) Cesspool Emptying. The service of the District Council's cesspool emptier is still used by a small number of houses remaining to be connected to the public sewer. The Borough Council has an arrangement with the Rural District Council for this service.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Sewage from the Cowbridge Borough is treated jointly with the villages of Llanblethian and Aberthin (within the area of the Cowbridge Rural District Council), at a disposal works situated near Lake Farm within the Cowbridge Rural Area.

The maintenance of these works is paid for by the two authorities.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There are no factories producing smoke in the Borough nor are there any such premises within the vicinity of the town. As a result, there is no atmospheric pollution in the area.

Certain sections of the Clean Air Act, 1956 which is a measure introduced by the Government to control the pollution of the atmosphere, came into force on the 20th December, 1956.

The new Act increases the power of the local authority to control the construction of new furnaces, height of industrial chimneys and gives power to form smoke controlled areas.

These new provisions are, in the main, an effort to avoid smoke nuisances in new factories, and there seems little necessity for their application in the Borough.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. CAMPING LICENCES.

No caravans were licenced by the Borough Council during the year.

DOMESTIC PESTS.

(a) Rodent Control. The Borough Council has an arrangement with the Rural District Council for the use of their rodent operative. Inspections and treatments are carried out when the need arises.

Warfarin is now exclusively used for rodent control work and this material is found to be satisfactory.

Details of the work carried out during the year are set out overleaf.



DOMESTIC PESTS (CONTD.)

Type of Property	Properties in Area	Inspections	Minor Infestations of rats and mice found	Treatments carried out
Local Authority	3	3	Nil	Nil
Dwellinghouses	309	104	12	12
Business Premises	51	22	2	2
Agricultural	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	363	129	14	14

(b) Other Pests. The Public Health Inspector gives advice where required on modern methods of eradicating domestic pests.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.Cowbridge and Llanblethian Joint Sewerage Scheme.

The sewerage scheme for the Borough was completed in 1956 and, with the exception of a group of houses near the Bridge at Cowbridge, and one or two isolated houses, all properties in the Borough are connected to the public sewer and have properly constructed water closets.

The Borough Council asked their Consulting Engineers to provide a scheme for a sewerage extension to serve four houses and a business premises at High Street, Cowbridge. This section was held in abeyance until the river at this point was diverted.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are no dairies registered within the area. The distributors concerned have dairies in the adjoining Rural District.

Specified Area.

The Cowbridge Borough is a specified area under the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950. The effect of this Act is that only Tuberculin Tested, Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised), Pasteurised and Sterilised milk may be sold in the district. Such milk has to be delivered to the consumer in sealed bottles or containers and it is now illegal to retail milk by can, dipper or measure. In addition, all pasteurised milk must be bottled at the premises at which it is pasteurised and it is illegal for dealers to break down pasteurised milk in their dairies or at any time while in their possession.

(a) Samples of Milk for Bacteriological Examination.

<u>Designation.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Samples of Pasteurised Milk	1	-	1
Samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk	1	-	1
Total	2	-	2

(b) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of distributors on Register 3
 Number of dairies registered Nil

(c) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

Number of Supplementary Licences issued authorising the use of special designations:-

(a) Pasteurised 3 (b) Tuberculin Tested 1
 (c) Tuberculin Tested
 (Pasteurised) 2

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

Inspections have been made of food premises within the Borough and the attention of occupiers drawn to any infringements of the Regulations. The number of food handlers in the town is too small to organise a course on clean food handling.

The introduction of the new sewer in the town has resulted in improvements in several of the premises. All the licenced premises in the Borough are connected to the sewer and improved sanitation has resulted in many cases. This latter work has resulted by close co-operation with the Police and licensing authorities, and in most cases the brewery companies or owners concerned were prepared to carry out the works without difficulty.

MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES, PRESSED MEATS ETC.

There are four small butchers' premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, pressed meats etc. All these comply with the new Regulations. In two cases hot water was provided over the existing sinks and in a third case a new sink, hand basin and constant hot water was provided.

ICE CREAM.

No ice cream has been manufactured in the Borough for several years and all ice cream sold is purchased from recognised manufacturers outside the area.

The following table shows the marked progress made in the bacteriological standard of ice cream since the Regulations came into force in 1947.

Provisional Grade	Provisional Interpretation	No. of Samples 1957
1	Satisfactory	4
2	Fairly satisfactory	Nil
3	Unsatisfactory	Nil
4	Very unsatisfactory	Nil

ICE 1947 (CONTD.)

Provisional Grade	Percentage of Samples in Cowbridge Borough									
	1947	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
1. Satisfactory	33.3	25.0	100.0	45.5	90.0	72.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2. Fairly satisfactory	16.7	25.0	Nil	36.4	Nil	27.2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Unsatisfactory	50.0	25.0	Nil	Nil	10.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4. Very unsatisfactory	Nil	25.0	Nil	18.2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.

The four butchers in the Borough purchase from wholesalers outside the district or arrange for slaughtering their animals at the public slaughterhouses at Barry or Bridgend. The meat at these public slaughterhouses is inspected by the Public Health Inspector of the area concerned before it leaves the premises. There is no slaughterhouse in the Borough.

On occasions meat in butchers' shops is found to have internal decomposition when examined by the Public Health Inspector. A certificate for the amount of meat condemned is issued and arrangements made for its collection by a licenced dealer who has a modern digesting plant where decomposed foods are sterilised before being put to other use.

Inspections are also made of all types of food stuffs in grocers and other food shops, and food found to be unfit is condemned and the necessary certificates issued.

The amount of food condemned during the year under review is set out below:-

<u>Class of Food.</u>	lbs.	ozs.
Tinned meats	50	12
Home killed meat	127	13
Dried peas	83	0
Tinned fruit	88	15
Total	350 lbs. 8 ozs.	

Remarks of Meat Inspector.

The meat was almost all affected by internal decomposition or bone taint. This condition is characteristic by putrefactive changes in the region of the pelvis, accompanied by an objectionable smell.

Careful examination is carried out and only in exceptional cases is the whole hind quarter condemned.

SHEEP AND CATTLE MARKET.

A scheme for the improvement of the cattle and sheep market was approved and work proceeded and was completed during the year.

The new cattle and sheep market is completely paved with cement concrete, a new covered cattle sale ring has been erected, a new cattle weigher fixed and new tubular steel cattle pens with reinforced cement concrete posts provided.

The lorry unloading bay is situated at the rear of the market and two new lorry washing bays provided in the area south of the old town wall.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - ADULTERATIONS, ETC.

The following samples were taken in this area by Mr. W. D. Lewis the County Public Health Inspector during the year ended 31st December, 1957:-

Biscuits	1	Margarine	1
Blanchange Powder	1	Pudding Mixture	3
Custard Powder	1	Rice	1
Chocolate Spread	1	Red Currant Jelly	1
Dessicated Coconut	1	Shredded Beef Suet	1
Fish (Canned)	1	Sponge Mixture	5
Flour	2	Sterilized Cream	1
Lemon Curd	2	Salad Cream	1
Milk	1	Sauce	1
Meat (Canned)	1	Table Jelly	3
Meat Paste	1	Vinegar	1
Mustard	1		
Total			33

SHOPS.

Several improvements were carried out to shops during the year, and the introduction of the new public sewer has assisted in the compliance of the requirements of the Shops Acts.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.Infectious Diseases.

Two cases of Whooping Cough, 14 cases of Measles and 1 Pneumonia were notified during the year. All cases were nursed at home.

Tuberculosis.

The position at January and December 1957 was as follows:-

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
On Register 1st January, 1957	2	2	1	-	5
On Register 31st December, 1957	2	3	1	-	6

Additions to Register.

One female pulmonary case was notified in the area during the year and her name was added to the register.

One female pulmonary case was transferred into the area during the year and her name was also added to the register.

Removals.

One female respiratory case left the Borough during the year.

Housing Conditions.

All the cases of tuberculosis are satisfactorily housed and it was not necessary to draw the attention of the Council to any matter during the year.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

(a) B.C.G. Vaccination:- B.C.G. Vaccination was carried out during the year but separate figures for the Borough and Rural Areas are not available. The figures for the combined areas provided by the Divisional Medical Officer are as follows:-

(a)	No. of children Mantoux	196
(b)	No. of children Positive	40
(c)	No. of children Negative	156
(d)	No. of children Vaccinated	156

(b) Poliomyelitis:- Vaccination against poliomyelitis proceeded during the year, the work being undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health and his staff. In the combined Rural and Borough Areas some 2,000 injections were given but no individual details for the Borough are yet available.

(c) Smallpox Vaccination:- Vaccination is now a purely voluntary matter but it is extremely important that all children are vaccinated during the first few months. Vaccination is usually carried out by the family doctor.

(d) Diphtheria Immunisation:- The absence of cases of diphtheria should not prevent parents having their children immunised against the disease, as it is only by continual watching of the situation and having a very high proportion of children immunised that the disease is kept at such a low level. It is very important that all children be immunised and that they receive booster doses when commencing school.

Diphtheria immunisation and vaccination details supplied by the Divisional Medical Officer are set out below:-

Immunisation 1957			Vaccination 1957
Under 5	5 - 15 years	Booster	Children Vaccinated
17	1	12	6

CINEMAS.

There is only one cinema in the area which is used for two evenings a week only. Non-inflammable films are used and the conditions are reasonably satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above Act during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The report on the action taken in connection with Factories in the area is set out below:-

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Notices
Factories in which:- Section 1 (Cleanliness) Section 2 (Overcrowding) Section 3 (Temperature) Section 4 (Ventilation) Section 6 (Drainage of Floors) are enforced by the Council	3	6	Nil
Factories in which:- Section 7 (Sanitary conveniences) only is enforced by the Council	8	10	Nil
Total	11	16	Nil

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1957.

	Inspections	Preliminary Notices	Statutory Notices
Drainage and Sewerage	243	Nil	Nil
Meat, Foods and Food Premises	42	3	Nil
Milk and Dairies	2	Nil	Nil
Housing	27	2	Nil
Public Health Act	17	1	Nil
Infectious Disease	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories and Workshops	16	Nil	Nil
House Refuse	68	Nil	Nil
Water Supplies	2	Nil	Nil
Works in Progress	79	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous	21	Nil	Nil
Total	517	6	Nil

